

SAGA

Swedish American Green Alliance
Newsletter



U.S. Secretary of Energy Chu, Ambassador Brzezinski Meet with Swedish and American Clean Energy Leaders

On December 8, U.S. Ambassador to Sweden Mark Brzezinski hosted U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu and a group of eight innovators, young leaders and scientists who shared information about their cutting-edge clean energy solutions.

The roundtable discussion was organized by the Swedish American Green Alliance (SAGA).

"I would like to thank Ambassador Brzezinski for hosting this event. It was exciting to learn about the work of these Swedish and American clean energy leaders. The diversity of their innovations and businesses is a reminder that we need an all-of-the-above approach to solving some of our most pressing energy challenges," said Secretary Chu. [Read more.](#)



Photos: Top - Max Jönsson, Chemrec; Carl Österlin, Stockholm University; Kasper Moth-Poulsen, Chalmers University of Technology; Anders Tunbjer, Hexicon; U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, U.S. Ambassador Mark Brzezinski; Daniel Sweeney, Fulbright Scholar; Carolina Johansson, Solelia; Giovanni Fili, NLAB Solar; Ingvar Landälv, Chemrec. Below - Ambassador Brzezinski and Secretary Chu. U.S. Embassy Sweden (Keith Sousa).



University Students Visit U.S. Embassy Sweden for First SAGA Happy Hour

On December 12, a group of twenty university students visited the U.S. Embassy in Sweden to listen to and share their ideas on environmental sustainability with the U.S. Ambassador to Sweden Mark Brzezinski, U.S. Embassy staff, and Per-Anders Widell from the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise, Energy, and Communications.

This was the first in a series of SAGA Happy Hours that the Embassy is hosting. The students – enrolled at the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm University, Södertörn University and Uppsala University – all had different academic backgrounds but shared a passion for environmental issues. [Read more.](#)

Skanska Tells Portland's Green Story to the World

A group of companies – including one with a big name in Sweden – joined with staff of the Portland Development Commission at a recent green expo to showcase the “We Build Green Cities” (WBGC) program. The group aims to export knowledge that has led Portland, OR to be an international model for how cities can grow while lowering their environmental footprints.

Swedish construction company Skanska has been invested in green for more than 40 years in Oregon and around the world, thanks to its headquarters in Solna, Sweden.



Portland-based Skanska Vice President Steve Clem notes that while WBGC is still growing, Skanska's worldwide network gives the group an opportunity to share its message even more. This effort was on display at Greenbuild where the group held two educational sessions. The first was a Greenbuild education session open to all and attended by several journalists. The next was an after-hours event at the offices of another WBGC partner, Glumac. [Read more.](#)

Photo: Portland Mayor Sam Adams. City of Portland

Arizona State Student Startup Places Second at Entrepreneurship Competition in Sweden

Solar Stream Innovations, an Arizona State University Student Startup, won second place in the Idea to Product Global Competition (I2P) held November 17 at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. This is the second year in a row that an ASU student-led startup from the Edson program has placed in this international competition.

Solar Stream Innovation's solar energy collection unit can generate heat at temperatures approaching 450 degrees Fahrenheit (232 degrees Celsius). Integrating the solar energy collection unit with a heat to electricity conversion unit allows the startup to generate electricity during the day and to capture heat rejected from the conversion process for water and space heating.

At night or on cloudy days, heat can also be supplied for conversion to electricity through burning any combustible fuel thus allowing on-demand electricity. [Read more.](#)



Photo: Arizona State University



Chalmers and UC Berkeley Team Up on Solar Energy

Researchers at Chalmers University of Technology and UC Berkeley have developed a system which can store solar energy in chemical bonds. The system is based on a synthetic molecule that is changed by sunlight.

The molecule can be transported and stored for several years and then used to generate heat on demand. [Read more.](#)



Värnamo Constructs New Biomass Plant

Niche news site Power Engineering is reporting that the Municipality of Värnamo in Småland will open a new biomass plant that uses bark and wood chips as fuel. The plant is scheduled to open in 2014.

The construct will consist of a energy co-generation of heat and power plant which will generate 13.4 Mwth (thermal megawatts) of heat and an 3.6 Mwe (electrical megawatts). [Read more.](#)



SKF Recognized for "Strong Emphasis on Sustainability"

The Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce-Philadelphia (SACC-Philadelphia) selected SKF USA to receive SACC-Philadelphia's annual business entrepreneurial award. This award was created in 2010 by SACC-Philadelphia and recognizes companies and individuals who have made a significant contribution to the exchange of trade and commerce between the Philadelphia Region and Scandinavia, and important contributions towards innovation, corporate social responsibility and sustainable business practices.

"SKF USA Inc. places strong emphasis on sustainability," said David Engstrom, President of SACC-Philadelphia. [Read more.](#)

Ford Fusion Named Green Car of the Year

The all-new 2013 Ford Fusion has been named Green Car Journal's 2013 Green Car of the Year at the LA Auto Show.

According to the jury, the 2013 Ford Fusion not only reduces petroleum use, CO2 emissions and overall environmental im-



pact, but is priced to encourage the kind of sales volume that can truly influence environmental improvement. [Read more.](#)

Image: 2013 Ford Fusion. Wiki.